

Appl. No. 09/917,986
Amdt. Dated April 29, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 8, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 3-7. These sheets, which includes Figs. 1-7, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1-7. Figs. 1 and 3-7 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner objected to the drawings due to typographical errors. Applicant notes that Figures 1 and 3-7 have been corrected to overcome the Examiner's objections. Replacement sheets 1/6 - 6/6 are herein attached.

The Examiner objected to the specification due to informalities. Applicant notes that the specification has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections.

The Examiner objected to claim 1 due to informalities. Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3, 4, and 6 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,923.

In addition, Miller does not teach "wherein the dial unit gives the user a click feel per unit rotation." Referring to column 4, lines 29-45 of Miller, Miller teaches a dial operated by rotary movement whereby rotary movement of the dial generates signal pulses that are fed to a microprocessor. The microprocessor activates a display that displays the code input by the user as disclosed in column 5, lines 12-29. Thus, Miller teaches that rotation of the dial generates

signal pulses and not a click feel to the user. Therefore, Miller does not teach all the limitations of claim 1.

Miller does not teach all the limitations of claim 1. More specifically Miller does not teach a dial unit for inputting alphanumeric characters. Referring to column 5, lines 16-18 and FIGURE 2 of Miller, the specification states that "the code is represented by numbers." Further in column 6, lines 13-14 the specification states "A display unit 35 provides the numerals..." Thus, the dial unit in Miller inputs numeric characters and not alphanumeric characters.

Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from claim 1 thus all arguments pertaining to claim 1 are equally applicable to these claims and are herein incorporated by reference.

The Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,923. Applicant notes that there must be a basis in the art for modifying a reference. The Examiner must be able to point to something in the prior art that suggests some way a modification of a particular reference in order to arrive at the claimed invention. The Examiner stated that it is well known in the art to include some sort of cancel, delete, or backspace key. Applicant respectfully contends that it would not have been obvious to implement some sort of cancel or delete key on the combination lock taught by Miller because combination locks are designed to prevent one from opening the lock if the incorrect sequence is inputted by the user. If the user inputs the incorrect sequence the user is not permitted to backspace and correct the user must start the sequence again, that is the purpose of a combination lock. Thus, adding a cancel or delete key to the lock taught by Miller would not be obvious and would also defeat the purpose of the combination lock. Further, claim 5 depends from claim 1 thus all arguments pertaining to claim 1 are equally applicable to claim 5 and are herein incorporated by reference.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33837.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 1

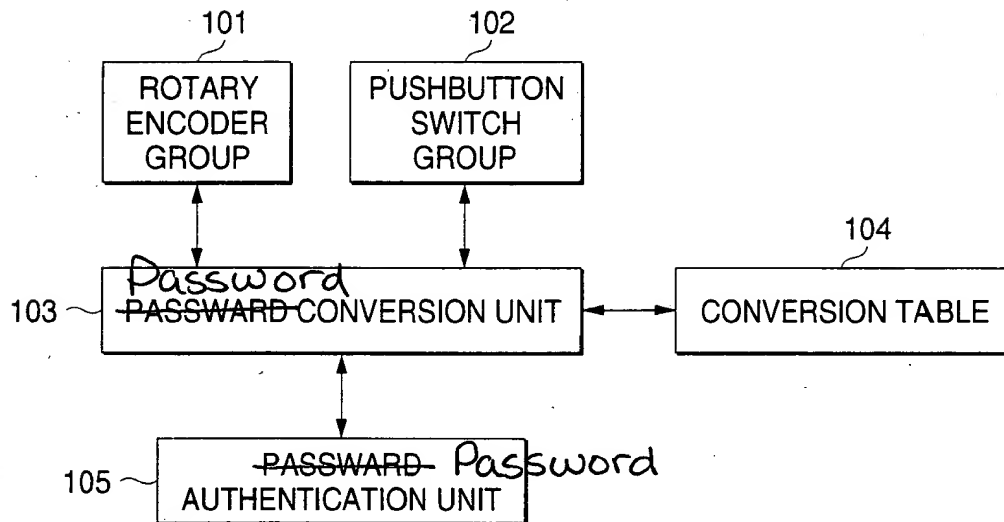


FIG. 2

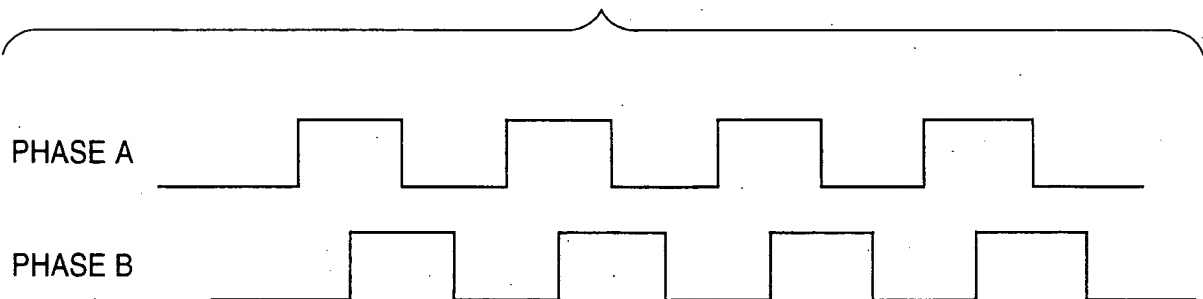


FIG. 3

PROCESS EXAMPLE 1

INPUT DEVICE	ROTARY ^{Rotary} ENCODER PROVIDED WITH A SWITCH
INPUT OF A NUMERIC VALUE	NUMBER OF CLICKS OBTAINED UP TO A PUSH ON THE SWITCH BY CLOCKWISE ROTATION FROM THE START POINT (THE CURRENT POSITION ASSUMED WHEN THE SWITCH IS PRESSED IS A NEW START POINT)
DETERMINATION OF INPUT TERMINATION	VIA TOTAL NUMBER OF TIMES THE SWITCH WAS PRESSED
INPUT CORRECTION METHOD	ROTATE AT LEAST ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE THE STOP POSITION IS A NEW START POINT

INPUT EXAMPLE (PASSWORD: 35192)

STEP	ACTION
1	ROTATE THREE CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN PRESS THE SWITCH
2	ROTATE FIVE CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN PRESS THE SWITCH
3	ROTATE ONE CLICK CLOCKWISE, THEN PRESS THE SWITCH
4	ROTATE NINE CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN PRESS THE SWITCH
5	ROTATE TWO CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN PRESS THE SWITCH

PROCESS EXAMPLE 2

INPUT DEVICE	ROTARY <i>Rotary</i> ENCODER PROVIDED WITH A SWITCH
INPUT OF A NUMERIC VALUE	NUMBER OF CLICKS OBTAINED BY CLOCKWISE ROTATION BEFORE ROTATING AT LEAST ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE (THE STOP POSITION FOLLOWING COUNTERCLOCKWISE ROTATION IS A NEW START POINT)
DETERMINATION OF INPUT TERMINATION	VIA TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTERCLOCKWISE ROTATIONS
INPUT CORRECTION METHOD	A PUSH ON THE SWITCH THE CURRENT POSITION IS A NEW START POINT

INPUT EXAMPLE (PASSWORD: 35192)

STEP	ACTION
1	ROTATE THREE CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE AT LEAST ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE
2	ROTATE FIVE CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE AT LEAST ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE
3	ROTATE ONE CLICK CLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE AT LEAST ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE
4	ROTATE NINE CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE AT LEAST ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE
5	ROTATE TWO CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE AT LEAST ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE

FIG. 4

PROCESS EXAMPLE 3

INPUT DEVICE	ROTARY ^{Rotary} ENCODER PROVIDED WITH A SWITCH
INPUT OF A NUMERIC VALUE	NUMBER OF CLICKS OBTAINED BY ROTATING IN DIRECTION OPPOSITE TO THE PRECEDING DIRECTION (THE REVERSAL POSITION IS A NEW START POINT)
DETERMINATION OF INPUT TERMINATION	VIA TOTAL NUMBER OF REVERSAL ROTATIONS
INPUT CORRECTION METHOD	A PUSH ON THE SWITCH THE CURRENT POSITION IS A NEW START POINT

INPUT EXAMPLE (PASSWORD: 35192)

STEP	ACTION
1	ROTATE THREE CLICKS CLOCKWISE
2	ROTATE FIVE CLICKS COUNTERCLOCKWISE
3	ROTATE ONE CLICK CLOCKWISE
4	ROTATE NINE CLICKS COUNTERCLOCKWISE
5	ROTATE TWO CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE AT LEAST ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE

FIG. 5

5/6

PROCESS EXAMPLE 4

INPUT DEVICE	ROTARY ^{Rotary} ENCODER PROVIDED WITH A SWITCH
INPUT OF A NUMERIC VALUE	NUMBER OF CLICKS OBTAINED BY COUNTERCLOCKWISE ROTATION SPECIFIES A DIGIT POSITION NUMBER OF CLICKS OBTAINED BY CLOCKWISE ROTATION INPUTS A NUMERIC VALUE (THE STOP POSITION FOLLOWING COUNTERCLOCKWISE ROTATION IS A NEW START POINT)
DETERMINATION OF INPUT TERMINATION	A PUSH ON THE SWITCH
INPUT CORRECTION METHOD	PREVIOUS INPUT IN A DESIRED DIGIT MAY BE CORRECTED UNTIL THE SWITCH IS PRESSED

INPUT EXAMPLE (PASSWORD: 35192)

STEP	ACTION
1	ROTATE ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE THREE CLICKS CLOCKWISE
2	ROTATE TWO CLICKS COUNTERCLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE FIVE CLICKS CLOCKWISE
1	ROTATE ONE CLICK COUNTERCLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE THREE CLICKS CLOCKWISE
2	ROTATE TWO CLICKS COUNTERCLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE FIVE CLICKS CLOCKWISE
3	ROTATE THREE CLICKS COUNTERCLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE ONE CLICK CLOCKWISE
4	ROTATE FOUR CLICKS COUNTERCLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE NINE CLICKS CLOCKWISE
5	ROTATE FIVE CLICKS COUNTERCLOCKWISE, THEN ROTATE TWO CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN PRESS THE SWITCH

FIG. 6

6/6

PROCESS EXAMPLE 5

INPUT DEVICE	ROTARY ^{Rotary} ENCODERS AS MANY AS THE NUMBER OF DIGITS AND A SWITCH
INPUT OF A NUMERIC VALUE	NUMBER OF CLICKS OBTAINED BY COUNTERCLOCKWISE ROTATION USING A ROTARY ENCODER FOR EACH DIGIT (NUMBER OF CLICKS OBTAINED BY COUNTERCLOCKWISE ROTATION IS SUBTRACTED)
DETERMINATION OF INPUT TERMINATION	A PUSH ON THE SWITCH
INPUT CORRECTION METHOD	PREVIOUS INPUT IN A DESIRED DIGIT MAY BE CORRECTED UNTIL THE SWITCH IS PRESSED

INPUT EXAMPLE (PASSWORD: 35192)

STEP	ACTION
1	ROTATE THE ROTARY ENCODER FOR THE FIRST DIGIT THREE CLICKS CLOCKWISE
2	ROTATE THE ROTARY ENCODER FOR THE SECOND DIGIT FIVE CLICKS CLOCKWISE
3	ROTATE THE ROTARY ENCODER FOR THE THIRD DIGIT ONE CLICK CLOCKWISE
4	ROTATE THE ROTARY ENCODER FOR THE FOURTH DIGIT NINE CLICKS CLOCKWISE
5	ROTATE THE ROTARY ENCODER FOR THE FIFTH DIGIT TWO CLICKS CLOCKWISE, THEN PRESS THE SWITCH

FIG. 7